



# RFS

# Fire Season Outlook 2024 - 2025



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# 1. Letter to the Minister

The Hon. Jihad Dib MP  
Minister for Customer Services and Digital Government  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Youth Justice  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit to you the annual NSW Fire Season Outlook Statement for 2024-25. This statement is prepared annually by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and addresses recommendations 2, 8(e) and 30 of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry into the 2019-20 bush fire season. The independent inquiry was led by former Chief Scientist and Engineer Professor Mary O'Kane AC and former NSW Policy Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens APM.

A number of factors have been assessed by the RFS to evaluate the potential fire risk posed across NSW for the 2024-25 fire season. Based on the current and forecast conditions available at the time of publication, NSW has the potential for a 'normal' fire season for most of 2024, with the ability to see increased fire activity in early 2025.

The prolonged widespread wet weather through 2024 has limited the ability to complete hazard reduction activities, particularly controlled burning, compounding the fire risk. In many areas it has been impossible to undertake this work, with fire agencies and land managers now focused on completing as much work as possible when conditions allow.

The RFS regularly monitors vegetation fuel loads across the state and models the regrowth of vegetation to form a scientifically-based view of bush fire risk now and in the years ahead. These field observations have identified that the rain has also increased vegetation growth, further exacerbating the risk for this fire season.

In broad terms, the key risks for the 2024-25 bush fire season include:

- Grassland areas west of the Great Dividing Range may pose an above normal risk, particularly later in the fire season.
- Once dry, forest areas could carry fast and intense fires under elevated fire danger conditions. This includes areas that were burnt during the 2019-20 Black Summer fires, many of which have now recovered.

The RFS is continuing to work with fire agencies and land managers to take advantage of every possible opportunity to conduct hazard reduction burning in preparation for the fire season. Where necessary, hazard reduction other than burning can be carried out, such as through mechanical works close to properties in Asset Protection Zones.

Community engagement is also important to educate people about their fire risk. The RFS encourages everyone near or on bush and grass fire prone land to live bush fire ready. That means individuals knowing their fire risk and having a Bush Fire Survival Plan to know what to do during a fire.

It is important that fire agencies, land managers and the community continue to focus on the need to take all possible action to prepare for the return to grass and bush fire conditions this season and in the years ahead.

**Rob Rogers AFSM**  
RFS Commissioner  
Chair, NSW Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee



## 2. Conditions Leading into the 2024-25 Fire Season

Rainfall has generally been above average across NSW over recent months. As a result, fuels and soils are wetter than normal across most parts of central and eastern NSW. The forecast for the end of winter and spring is for an increased chance of above normal rainfall.

This above normal rainfall continues to provide increased grass growth, with grass fuel loads remaining high in parts of central NSW.

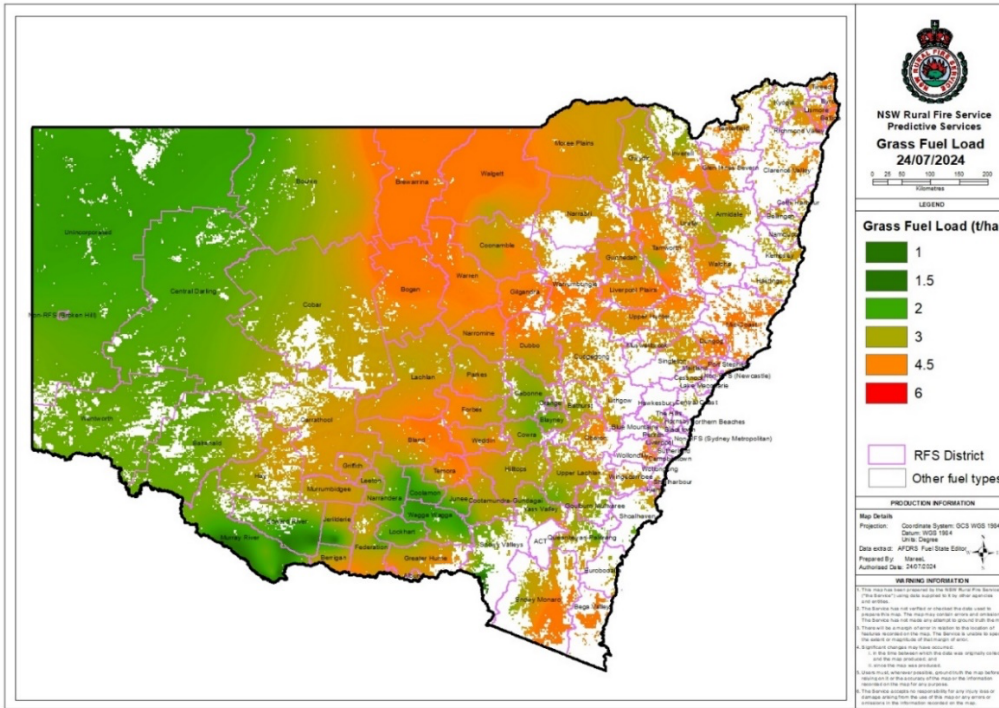


Figure 1 - Grass fuel load as at 24 July 2024.

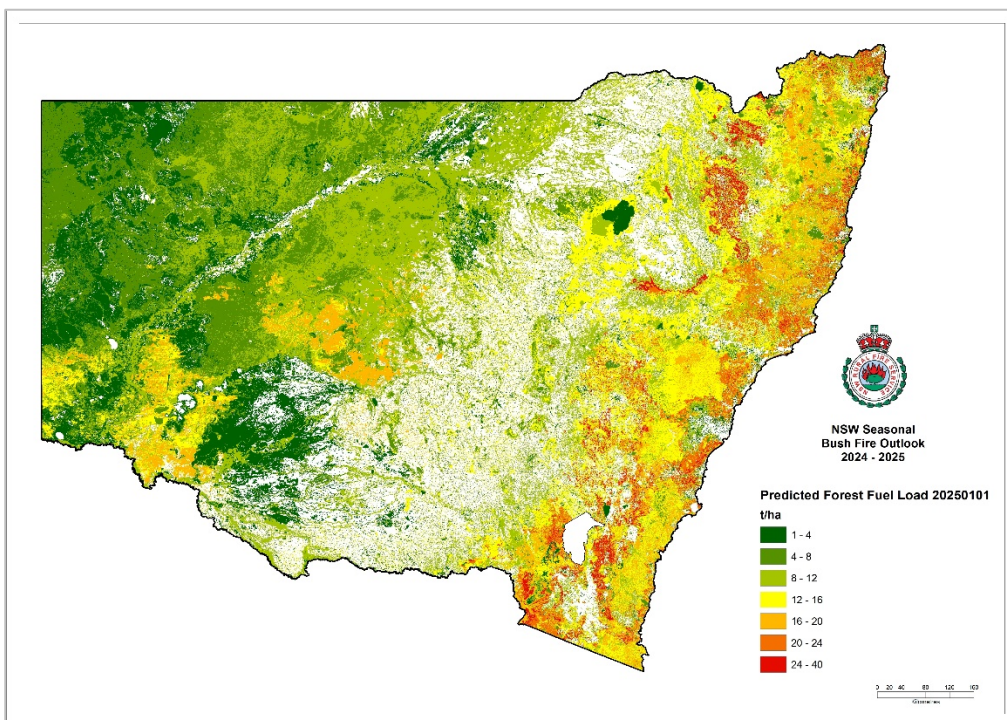
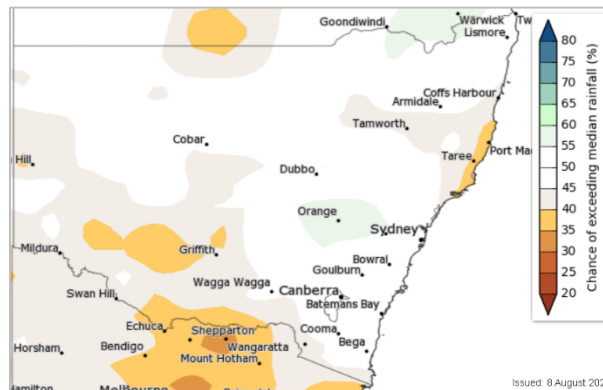


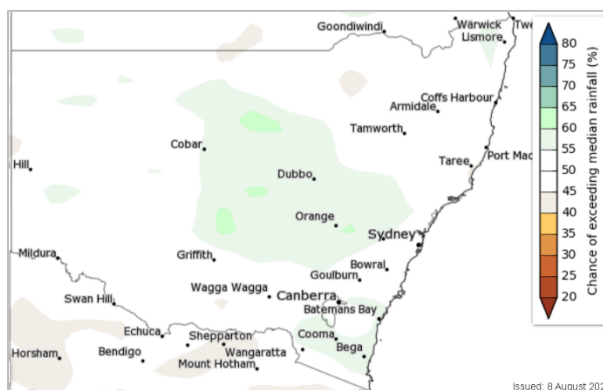
Figure 2 - Predicted forest fuel load as at 1 January 2025. Fuel loads are modelled at a landscape scale and may not account for small scale local variations.

Forecast weather conditions from September to December 2024 are showing a range of potential rainfall scenarios. A La Nina Watch is current and a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) may also develop in spring. Should these drivers occur, conditions are likely to be wetter than normal.

The spring outlook indicates temperatures are likely to be above normal. With rainfall forecasts less certain, short-term weather variability may be a more significant factor than usual for the coming fire season.

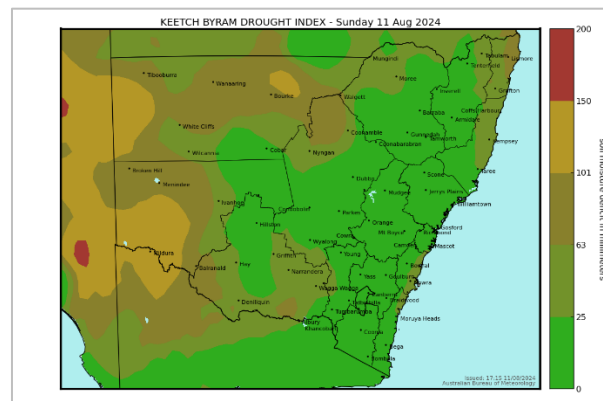


**Figure 3 - Chance of exceeding median rainfall (%) for September to November as at 8 August 2024 (Source: BoM).**



**Figure 4 - Chance of exceeding median rainfall (%) for October to December as at 8 August 2024 (Source: BoM).**

Soil moisture is currently high (Figure 5) and most of NSW is forecast to have an increased chance of wetter than normal conditions into spring. Forests and grasslands will need time to dry out enough for elevated Fire Danger, which could result in large, hard-to-control fires this spring.



**Figure 5 - Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI) as at 11 August 2024 (Source: BoM).**

### 3. Predicted Fire Season Outlook for 2024-25

A number of factors are assessed in predicting the fire season outlook, including fuels and their susceptibility to fire, the likelihood of fire weather and ignitions occurring, and fire authorities' preparations for and response to the risk.

It should be noted that there can be a high degree of uncertainty in climate outlook forecasts, particularly those looking beyond a three month period.

The 2024-25 outlook reflects a combination of wetter than normal conditions and a forecast for an increased chance of above average rainfall through winter and spring. This is likely to provide wetter soils and limit both forest and grass fuel availability. As a result, no areas have currently been identified as having an above average fire potential for the 2024-25 fire season.

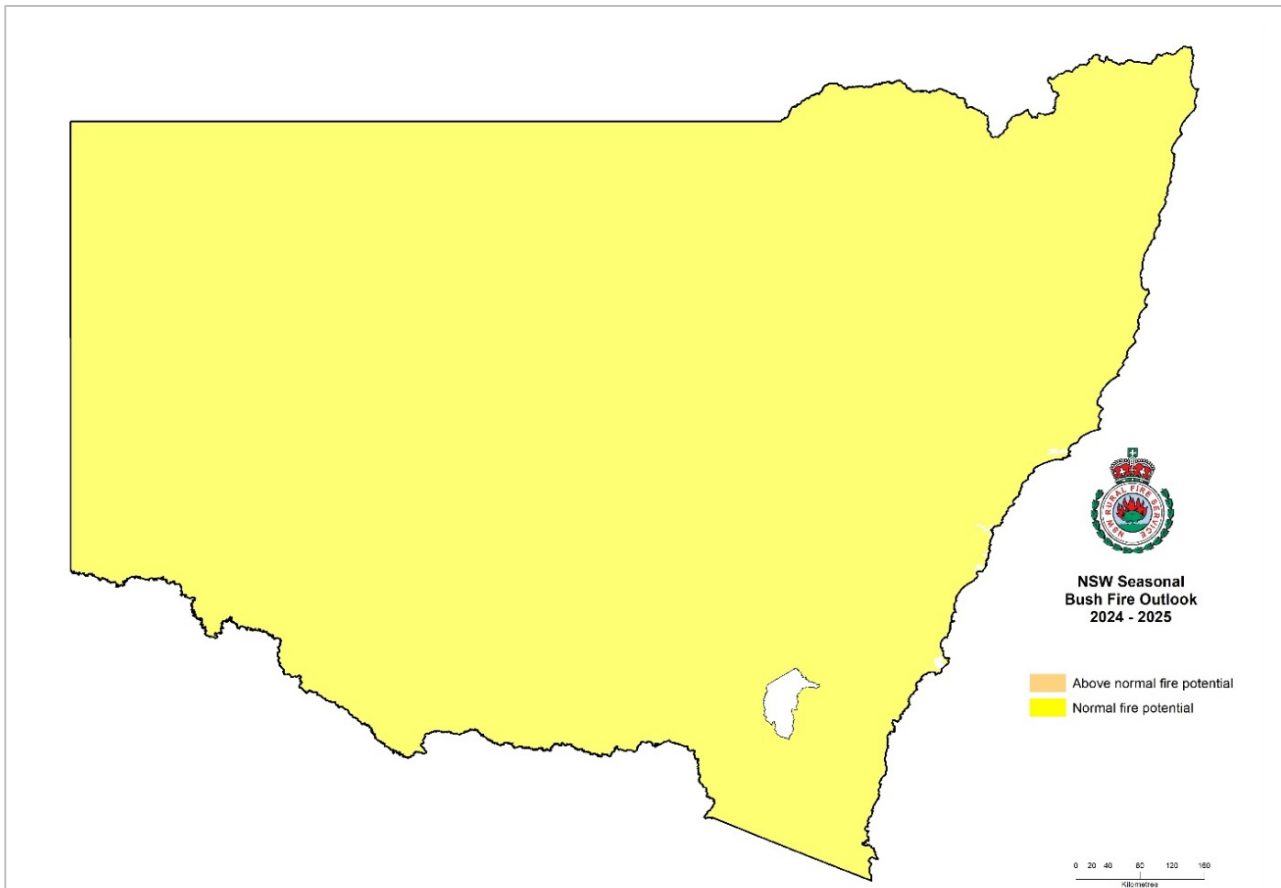


Figure 6 - NSW Fire Season Outlook 2024-25 as at 1 August 2024.

While wetter fuels will be less available to burn at the start of the fire season, it is worth noting that forested areas burnt during the 2019-20 Black Summer fires have now recovered to the point where, once dry, they could again carry dangerous fires.

Areas that had been impacted by fire in 2019-20 were again able to carry fire in the 2023-24 season. This was largely due to the severity of the fire in 2019-20 removing canopy fuels and three years of consecutive La Ninas (2020-2023) allowing elevated fuels to flourish. Sampling this year has shown some die-off in this elevated fuel, subsequently increasing near-surface fuel loads. Areas affected by lower severity fires in 2019-20 have seen surface and near-surface fuel loads increase, allowing these areas to be more available to fire this year.

NSW has already experienced fires in these burn scars this year. Analysis of the observed fuels shows fires are more likely to behave like shrubland or heath fires, spreading rapidly under dry and windy conditions and struggling to spread under calmer conditions.

Similarly, grassland areas of NSW could potentially dry out to the point where they could carry fast and intense grass fires under elevated fire danger. Should this occur, these areas may pose an above normal risk during this period (Figure 7).

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) also indicates the potential for an average to below average spring period when compared to historical AFDRS data (Figure 7).

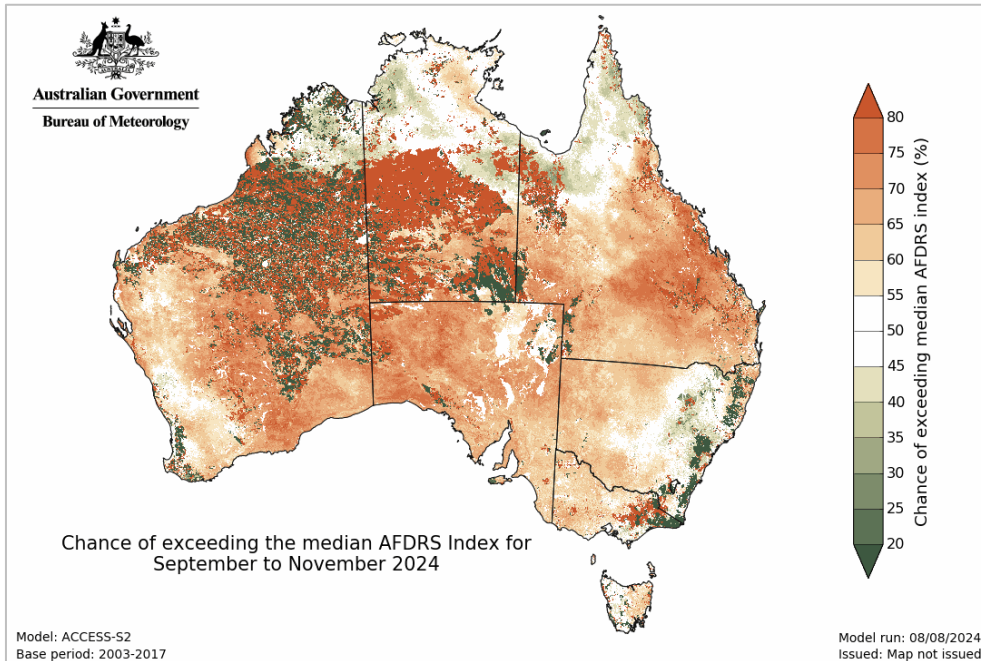


Figure -7 Australian Fire Danger Rating System Index for September to November as at 8 August 2024 (Source: BoM).

As forecasts and climate outlooks do not extend into summer, it is not clear whether summer will be wetter or drier than normal. Therefore, several areas have been identified with the potential for late fire season fire risk (Figure 8) due to the potential for above normal grass growth or existing underlying dryness. The outlook will be monitored closely as the season approaches and will be revised as required.

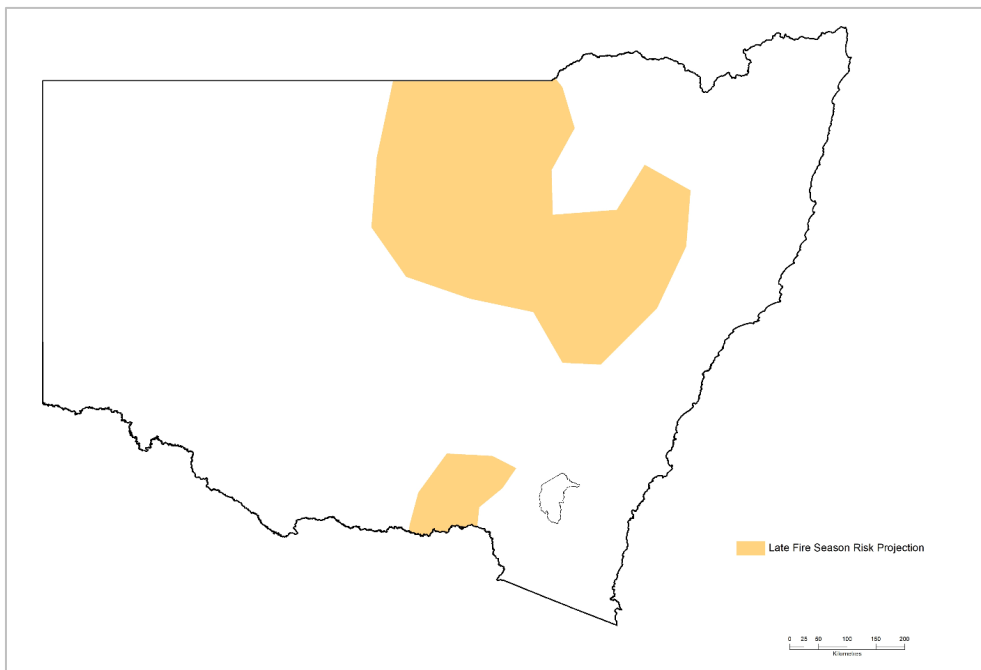


Figure 8 - Late Fire Season Risk Projection as at 1 August 2024.



## 4. Managing Bush Fire Risk

Fire agencies and land managers take a structured, localised and multi-agency approach to the identification of assets at risk from bush fires and a strategic approach to the mitigation of those risks through targeted bush fire prevention activities.

Bush fire risk mitigation requires a careful balance of objectives and considers a broad range of factors, including the safety of the community and firefighters, risk of unintended property damage, environmental and cultural considerations and the impact of smoke.

Managing bush fire risk involves a combination of prevention, preparedness and response strategies. Planning and managing these activities is undertaken cooperatively and requires strategic consideration on a whole of landscape basis.

This holistic approach includes a number of mitigation strategies, initiatives and awareness programs all aimed at reducing bush fire risk, increasing firefighter safety and protecting the community of NSW.

### 4.1. Bush Fire Risk Management Plans

A Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) is a strategic five-year plan that identifies the risk to human settlement, economic, environmental and cultural assets and values in a local area.

The aim of the BFRMP is to reduce the adverse impact of bush fires on these assets and values through the identification and implementation of risk mitigation treatment strategies. Bush Fire Management Committees (BFMC) are required under Section 52 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* to prepare a BFRMP in accordance with the methodology and process established by Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) Policy.

In 2023, a new BFCC Policy for Bush Fire Risk Management was approved, using a bush fire characterisation model to measure risk. This ensures BFMCs have a uniform, tenure-neutral method for risk analysis. Local communities are consulted early in the process of developing the BFRMP and can review and provide further feedback on the draft plan during a public exhibition phase.

As part of the plan's development process, a BFMC will identify Focus Areas, which are groups of assets or areas in the landscape that have significant or unacceptable risk and require targeted treatment strategies. Treatment strategies may include fuel management, ignition prevention, community preparedness and response. Focus Area treatments will be the highest priority treatments for BFMCs and will guide the BFMC Annual Works Plan over the five-year life of the BFRMP.

As of 16 August 2024, nine BFMCs have approved BFRMPs under the revised BFCC Policy and the remaining 43 Committees have BFRMPs in various stages of development.

Access to approved BFRMPs and information about the process is provided via the RFS website at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees>.

## 4.2. Hazard Reduction Works

Implementation of hazard reduction activities is discussed by local Bush Fire Management Committees and prioritised through the local BFRMP. This work is typically undertaken by each agency or land manager on an individual basis, notwithstanding that agencies often share resources in order to complete the required works. The prioritisation of works is dependent on the limited windows of suitable weather conditions and the resources available to conduct work safely and effectively.

Hazard reduction burns require stable weather conditions: temperature, humidity, wind and ground and vegetation moisture levels must all be within designated ranges.

Since 2021, however, agencies have faced prolonged wet weather and severe flooding, preventing hazard reduction targets from being met.

Recent rain across many areas of NSW has led thousands of hectares of hazard reduction burns scheduled for autumn and early winter to be postponed. Traditionally, almost 60 per cent of hazard reduction activities are undertaken during this peak burning period.

While favourable conditions in April allowed for several significant burns to be undertaken, the return of wet weather saturated the landscape, making it too wet for effective burning and also fuelling increased vegetation growth, posing a risk for the next fire season.

Despite these challenges, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, agencies still managed to treat 139,927 hectares, providing protection to 129,711 properties.

**Table 1 - Hazard Reduction Activities Summary for 2023-24 Financial Year as at 5 August 2024.**

Activity Type	Number of Activities	Areas Treated (ha)	Properties Protected
Burn	724	126,087	116,642
Mechanical	4,495	13,840	13,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>139,927</b>	<b>129,711</b>

NSW fire agencies and land managers are continuing to seize every opportunity to undertake hazard reduction burning when conditions allow.

BFMCs across the state have set a hazard reduction target to treat 377,290 hectares, providing protection to 205,208 properties, throughout 2024-25. This includes 184,682 ha of work unable to be conducted in 2023-24 and considered to be carried over to this financial year.

## 4.3. Cultural Fire Management

While hazard reduction is the objective of prescribed burning activity undertaken under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, Aboriginal cultural fire management describes the ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use fire to care for country, reduce the risk of bush fires and promote and strengthen connection to culture.

In response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, the Cultural Fire Management Unit has been established by Aboriginal cultural fire experts and advised by an Aboriginal Working Group.

Cultural burning is currently undertaken on Aboriginal controlled lands such as Indigenous Protected Areas and on public and private lands by Aboriginal communities. Public land managers including Forestry Corporation NSW (FCNSW), Crown Lands and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have been supporting the implementation of cultural burns on public lands and National Parks and Reserves.

The RFS places a high value on the experience and practices of First Nations members and communities. Bush fire management is a complex science that requires a range of practices to minimise bush fire risk and protect diverse landscapes and communities.

It is clear that the latest bush fire science and technology and the ancient land care practices of First Nations communities can be complementary in helping to protect our communities and environment, including cultural sites and totem species

The RFS works closely with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Traditional Owner groups and other Aboriginal corporations to implement cultural burning across the state. The Service has also been undertaking kindred agency training with these organisations to enable their members to gain qualifications in bush firefighting to assist in facilitating the practice of cultural burning on private and agencies lands.

The RFS also has 46 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mitigation Crew member positions. These crews carry out mitigation works in their own and surrounding communities to protect them from bush fire, using their local knowledge to help complete safe, responsible and respectful fire mitigation works. Importantly, they also assist with strengthening engagement within their own communities, enabling the RFS to build on established relationships and improve connections with First Nations communities across NSW.

#### 4.4. Interface Program

The RFS Interface Program proactively identifies, maps and mitigates sites of bush or grassland near urban interfaces throughout NSW to holistically manage Asset Protection Zones around communities.

The RFS has identified 2,135 communities in rural fire districts across NSW, each with a number of identified interfaces to be inspected. RFS members are inspecting these communities and completing required mitigation works.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 2,837 interface sites were inspected, of which 1,640 were compliant. This included 721 communities that were inspected in full with all interfaces compliant.

The RFS continues to work closely with Mitigation Crews and land managers to ensure potential bush fire hazards at the interface are mitigated.

#### 4.5. Fire Trails

Fire trails are a multi-agency responsibility. The NSW Strategic Fire Trails Network spans more than 30,000km across National Parks, Crown Lands, Forestry Corporation, councils and private land. The *Rural Fires Act 1997* provides for the establishment of an enhanced fire trail network across the state to give land managers and fire services better access to vast tracts of bushland and forests to conduct bush fire mitigation works and firefighting operations.

New RFS standards to ensure fire trails meet the needs of firefighters and land managers in both firefighting operations and mitigation works were gazetted in December 2023. The new standards take a practical and site-specific approach to fire trail design, including factors such as width and height clearances, gradient and drainage.

Local BFMCs are responsible for identifying and prioritising the fire trail network needs in their local areas, taking into consideration their current condition, fire risk and predicted weather. Working with firefighters, land managers and other agencies, each BFMC develops a Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plan to identify the location of the strategic network of access routes and fire trails in its area. All 52 BFMCs have submitted FAFT Plans to the BFCC for approval, with all but one approved.

The RFS is now working with stakeholders to roll out an updated version of the FAFT Plan. This next generation FAFT Plan will make use of the lessons learned from the new BFRMP methodology to improve the quality of the plans and re-focus agencies on delivering fire trails in the highest risk parts of the state.

As part of the response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, the RFS was allocated \$44.97 million over four years (starting 2020/21) for the strategic fire trail network. This funding, which enabled 52 fire trails to be completed, has now been expended.

RFS fire trail funding has now reverted to its pre-supplementation annual allocation of \$1 million, which will provide for a works schedule of functional maintenance and repairs during 2024-25.

RFS funding is in addition to existing agency funding for land management agencies with dedicated fire trail budgets such as Crown Lands (\$8.4 million) and NPWS (\$19.482 million).

The RFS completed 11 fire trails throughout the 2023-24 financial year in some of the highest risk areas such as the Northern Rivers, Mid Coast and the Hawkesbury.

During 2023-24, Crown Lands, in partnership with the RFS, upgraded or maintained more than 400km of strategic and tactical fire trails with approximately \$12 million in funding, including \$10 million in Extreme Risk funding provided by the NSW Government.

Over the past four financial years NPWS has expended \$88.4 million in fire trail capital. This includes upgrading 2,098kms of strategic fire trails and replacing 198 bridges.

The ongoing construction and maintenance of fire trails is required to ensure that a strategic network is developed and maintained to provide appropriate and safe access for both fire mitigation and suppression. This is essential to prevent fire escaping heavily forested areas and impacting directly on life and property.

#### 4.6. Work with energy providers to safeguard critical infrastructure

The RFS has continued to work with energy providers to gain an understanding of the bush fire mitigation works being conducted by these operators in addition to those works that form part of each BFMC's Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

A working group comprising representatives from the RFS, Endeavour Energy, Essential Energy and Ausgrid is being established. This group will define what consistent reporting will be provided by operators, what further assistance the RFS can provide to define bush fire risk on and around their infrastructure and how the providers can further assist the RFS in regard to targeting the highest bush fire risks, along with providing assistance with identification of ignitions related to their infrastructure.

From this work, it is envisaged the mitigation work being done by operators can be captured within the overall reporting of bush fire mitigation works consistent with BFRMP processes and annual reporting.

#### 4.7. Enhancing protection around telecommunication towers

The NSW Telco Authority (NSWTA) is responsible for delivering Recommendation 30b of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, which focuses on minimising communication outages and extending basic communication coverage during bush fires.

Through the Summer Readiness Program, NSWTA has been working with carriers to ensure their bush fire management plans are updated to include action to mitigate fire risk to APZs around assets and infrastructure, such as telecommunications towers and access roads, as well as key field staff completing the RFS Bush Fire Awareness training.

This is not only critical to the maintenance of communications to the community during bush fire emergencies but also to the carriers' obligations under section 63 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* as land managers to take practicable measures to prevent the occurrence of and minimise the danger of the spread of bush fires on or from the properties they occupy.

Some carriers have provided an overview of the bush fire preparedness activities undertaken in preparation for the 2024-25 fire season, including:

- Optus has been clearing vegetation 2-15 metres (site and landlord dependent) around critical sites such as radio transmission hubs and interstate fibre optical repeater sites. Additionally, all new/green sites now have a bush fire risk assessment completed and fire hardening work is now part of the build. This includes not installing timber retaining walls, sealing cable entries and adding fire rated mesh around elevated open sections of shelter ground to floor etc.
- TPG has completed 1,017 preventative maintenance site inspections and newly raised overgrown vegetation issues are under assessment for further action.
- NBN's Fixed Wireless Bushfire Compliance Strategy is based on a 10/5/3m maintenance clearance program. Specifically: 10m - Asset Protection Zone (APZ) where required by planning approvals; 5m - where the asset is located on Bush Fire Prone Land (BFPL), but there is no APZ planning approval requirement; and 3m - where the asset is located on non-BFPL. Some individual sites also may require additional asset protection clearing following recommendations by ground maintenance reporting or from bush fire service personnel. Where additional asset protection clearing has been recommended, NBN will undertake the appropriate assessment and approvals to increase the asset protection areas, coordinate the works to be undertaken as soon as practical and update the site-specific maintenance schedule to include the ongoing maintenance of the increased areas.
- Telstra has an annual risk-based scheduled grounds maintenance program that manages vegetation and firebreak clearance within its perimeters, including but not limited to: management of grassed areas and weed control, including under elevated structures; management of trees, bushes and shrubs where necessary; maintenance of fire breaks; and maintenance of access roads into its compounds. Over the past 12 months within NSW, Telstra has completed approximately 11,000 vegetation clearance activities across some 2,000 locations, including 30 access tracks.

## 4.8. Enhancing protection for schools

The safety of students and staff at schools around our state is paramount. It is important to avoid significant impact on student education, by minimising the likelihood of schools being closed due to bush fire risk.

The RFS is working collaboratively with the Department of Education, Catholic Schools NSW and the Association of Independent Schools to make school facilities safer for students and staff to remain in place during elevated fire risk danger.

Following the 2019/20 bush fire season, the Department of Education developed a School Bush Fire Risk Assessment Tool to inform decisions around when to close schools. After a number of schools, particularly on the Far South Coast, were closed during the 2023-24 fire season, the Department Secretary met with the RFS Commissioner to discuss safety considerations when closing schools.

A pilot program is now under way to provide schools with more closely-targeted action plans on bush fire and risk reduction measures and closure thresholds.

Following the pilot, assessments of all schools in defined bush fire prone areas will be conducted to determine the actions that can be taken to reduce the schools' fire risk. This will include the RFS developing site specific Bush Fire Survival Plans, and undertaking mitigation works, including using its legislative powers to reduce fuel levels on adjoining properties if required. The RFS is aiming to ensure that all possible measures are taken to increase the safety of our children.



## 4.9. Protecting Forestry Assets

The state-owned pine plantations in NSW are the source for our future timber housing construction materials. These plantations produce enough timber to build 40,000 homes each year - the equivalent of all the homes in Bathurst, Orange and Oberon combined.

The 2019-20 bush fires saw 25 per cent of state-owned plantation forests destroyed. FCNSW has made significant strides in restoring these forests, having planted more than 40 million seedlings in the past four years. Each seedling is meticulously planted by hand and safeguarding these young crops as well as the more mature pine forests from fire is crucial to maintaining a sustainable supply of construction materials.

As a fire authority, FCNSW plays an important role in protecting these plantations from bush fire. The Corporation has highly trained and experienced firefighters and fire managers who undertake important fire mitigation works to reduce the impact of bush fires before they start and respond quickly using ground crews, heavy plant and aircraft to suppress fires. FCNSW also works in conjunction with the RFS and other agencies to protect surrounding communities and assets.

## 5. Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee

The Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee (BFCC) is established under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* and is responsible for planning in relation to bush fire prevention and coordinated bush firefighting.

Chaired by the RFS Commissioner, the BFCC consists of 20 representatives of a range of fire services, land management agencies and other relevant stakeholders. These include representatives of Fire and Rescue NSW, the NSW Police Force, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation NSW, Local Government NSW, NSW Farmers, the Rural Fire Service Association, Fire Brigade Employees Union, Nature Conservation Council, the Department of Planning and Environment, the Minister for the Environment and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

The 2019-20 fire season proved a catalyst for major reform, advances in resources and technology and the introduction of new approaches, policies and procedures. As such, over the past year, the BFCC has undertaken several reviews and endorsed a number of policy and supporting documents for use by BFMCs, which are constituted by the BFCC.

This includes a new edition of the *Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) Handbook*, published in March 2024. The new Handbook strengthens cross-agency accountability and delivery, improving bush fire risk management outcomes through the work of the network of 52 BFMCs across NSW.

In May 2024, the BFCC endorsed the revised *Management of Bush Fire Operations Policy*. Under s52 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, BFMCs are required to prepare a bush fire management plan of operations. The revised policy describes the method and standard for preparing these plans, which are known as 'Plans of Operations'. A range of supporting documents were also updated to help BFMCs and agencies in facilitating coordinated and collaborative bush fire operations.

Under BFCC *Bush Fire Risk Management Policy*, BFMCs have been developing their next generation BFRMPs. These plans represent a great advance in risk planning, employing the latest technology and informed by additional community consultation processes. Nine BFRMPs have been approved by the BFCC to date under the revised Policy.

All BFMCs have submitted a FAFT Plan to the BFCC for approval, with all but one approved to date. The new RFS Fire Trail Standards, published in late 2023, primarily define the criteria for development and certification of Strategic Fire Trails and also serve as a benchmark to inform the design and construction of all fire trails on land throughout the State.

These updated policy and supporting documents can be viewed on the RFS website at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications/corporate-governance-and-planning/bush-fire-coordinating-committee-policies>

## 6. Agency Fire Fighting Capabilities



- **70,948** members
- **810** Remote Area Firefighters and **48** Aviation Rescue Crew
- **3,985** appliances (bush fire tankers and pumpers) and **371** approved heavy plant contractors, with more than **2,900** registered plant
- **11** RFS aircraft (1 Large Air Tanker, 1 heavy rotary, 3 fixed wing, 6 rotary) with the first of two Black Hawk helicopters scheduled to come online in December 2024. More than **220** contracted aircraft available (including 2 large air tankers).



- **1,250** firefighters (including **700** remote area firefighters).
- **403** appliances and **190** heavy plant
- **3** owned aircraft (rotary) and **3** leased aircraft (2 rotary and 1 fixed wing)
- **1** additional contracted rotary aircraft to support NPWS Rapid Aerial Response Teams (RART) during the bush fire season



- **6,776** firefighters (**3,579** permanent and **3,243** retained)
- **576** bush fire tankers/pumpers and **153** bush fire appliances
- **124** Remote Aerial Pilot Systems (RAPS)
- **510** Community Fire Units with **4,772** members
- **27** stations across the state RPAS capability



- **519** Firefighters
- **453** appliances and **35** heavy plant
- **4** contracted aircraft
- **133** DJI drones (20+ with thermal, 2 x M3T)
- **180** trained pilots
- **33** RePL accredited pilots

## 7. Helpful Links

### 7.1. Hazard Reductions

A list of hazard reduction burns planned by NSW land managers (such as NPWS, FCNSW, Crown Lands and Local Government Authorities) and fire agencies (RFS and FRNSW) over coming days, weather permitting, is available on the RFS website at

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/hazard-reductions>

Information to help individuals with health concerns reduce the impact of bush fire smoke is accessible at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/hazard-reductions/smoke-from-hazard-reduction>

### 7.2. Reporting a bush fire hazard

The RFS is responsible for inspecting bush fire hazards, providing advice and if necessary, issuing notices to landowners and managers to reduce hazards. If an individual has concerns about a bush fire hazard on a property that is not their own, they can lodge a complaint at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/know-your-risk/Bush-fire-hazards-and-your-property/reporting-a-bush-fire-hazard2> or the local Fire Control Centre.

The RFS will arrange for an inspection of the site to determine if a bush fire hazard exists. These inspections are carried out on a tenure-blind process. The complaint will be treated the same way, whether the land is privately or publicly owned.

The owner or manager of the land will be notified of the results. Privacy legislation prevents the disclosure of the details of the individual who lodged the complaint.

If an individual has concerns about bush fire hazards on their property, the RFS can also provide advice about preparing their property to reduce their bush fire risk and what to do in the event of a bush fire.

### 7.3. Hazards Near Me

The Fires Near Me NSW app is now called the Hazards Near Me NSW app and provides information about local bush fires and other hazards, such as floods. The app also provides other warnings and activities such as fire danger ratings, total fire bans and hazard reduction activities. The app can send push notifications of new incidents or changed information.

The RFS website also publishes information about current bush and grass fires attended by fire services in NSW and other incidents attended by the RFS. Visit <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>.

During times of major incident activities, such as during bush and grass fires that pose a threat to the community, individuals can also stay up to date at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/major-fire-updates> or by calling the Bush Fire Information Line 1800 679 737

### 7.4. Bush Fire Danger Period and Fire Permits

A Fire Permit is required for burning activities in Rural Fire Districts during the Bush Fire Danger Period and at all times in Fire Districts around the state. Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely. Information about Fire Permits is available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP>.

Individuals are also required to notify the RFS that they are planning a burn on their property before they light up. Notifications can be lodged at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications> Individuals also are required to advise their neighbours at least one day ahead.

### 7.5. Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans

Fire Danger Ratings give an indication of the consequences of a fire, if one were to start. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions.

On days of elevated fire danger, a Total Fire Ban may be declared. During Total Fire Bans, individuals cannot light, maintain or use a fire in the open or carry out any activity in the open that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire.

Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans are determined each afternoon for the following day. The RFS provides a forecast for statewide fire danger ratings for a four-day period. This may be subject to change on the day. Information is available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

### 7.6. Bush Fire Survival Plan

The RFS encourages all individuals to live bush fire ready. That means knowing their bush and grass fire risk and having a plan for what they and their family will do in the event of a fire. Bush Fire Survival Plan advice is available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>

# Glossary

Acronym	Definition
AFDRS	Australia Fire Danger Rating System
ACMA	Australian Communications and Media Authority
APZ	Asset Protection Zone
BFCC	Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee
BFMC	Bush Fire Management Committee
BFRMP	Bush Fire Risk Management Plan
FAFT	Fire Access and Fire Trail Plan
FBI	Fire Behaviour Index
FCNSW	Forestry Corporation of NSW
FRNSW	Fire + Rescue NSW
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSWTA	NSW Telco Authority
RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service









# RFS

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